

Myanmar keen to take back its citizens

UNHCR tells minister

BSS, Dhaka

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Christopher BC Lee yesterday called on Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf at his office here.

The UNHCR referred to a new package for quick repatriation of 19,944 Myanmar refugees living in two refugee camps in the country.

He said Myanmar government is interested in taking back their citizens under a policy comparatively liberal than the past time, an official handout said.

The food and disaster management minister requested the UNHCR to take effective steps for quick repatriation of the Myanmar refugees as per rule.

Both sides expressed their determination to repatriate the remaining Myanmar refugees.

Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

EC launches call for proposals for poverty reduction

UNB, Dhaka

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals for operations aimed at poverty reduction in developing countries to be co-financed with European development NGOs.

In this regard, the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh organised an information session at the auditorium of the Brac INN yesterday for local and international NGOs in Bangladesh.

The aim of the information session was to explain guidelines and application procedures for co-financing call for proposals to prospective NGOs.

It is expected that the information session will strengthen the partnership with international and local NGOs, working in Bangladesh and help improve the quality of submitted proposals and inform local and international NGOs about the commission's development programmes.

Anthony Goodwin, first counselor and Head of Operations Section of the EC Delegation in Bangladesh made the introductory remarks at the session while Carmen P. Gomez, Vianney Labe and Fabrizio Senesi made presentations on different aspects of the call for proposals.

About 30 local and international NGOs participated in the session. The call will remain open till October 28, according to a press release.



Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam presides over a project proposal review meeting on Tanguar Haor at the secretariat in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

\$100 SEVIS fee for US visa

UNB, Dhaka

Applicants for student (F and M) and exchange programme (J) visas for the United States will have to pay a new \$100 processing fee each to its Department of Homeland Security.

Applicants for these visas will be required to provide proof that the new processing fee has been paid.

"No visa can be issued without proof of fee payment," says a Special Bulletin of the US Embassy.

This fee, the Student and Exchange Visitor (SEVIS) fee, will apply to students and exchange visitors who hold 1-20s or DS-2019s issued after September 1, 2004.

The fee will apply only to primary applicants and not to their spouses or children.

The fee will not affect applicants who are planning to arrive in the US this fall nor will it affect any students renewing their F1 status after a short vacation.

The fee will be charged only once per student per year of applications, regardless of how many schools to which the student applies or is accepted or how many times the student applies for a visa.

For exchange visitor applicants, the fee must be paid for each programme in which the applicant participates. The sponsors of exchange visitor programmes will have the option of paying the fee directly rather than having the participant pay.

Additionally, individuals travelling on certain US government-sponsored programmes will not have to pay the fee.

Call for united movement to oust govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League, yesterday urged the progressive student organisations to forge a united movement to oust the BNP-led coalition government.

At a press briefing at the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) building, BCL President Liaqat Sikder said they are going to form an all-party students' unity soon to launch the anti-government movement.

"We have already discussed with the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)-backed BCL and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, and are communicating with all other like-minded student organisations in this connection," he added.

The BCL president said the coalition government has not only failed to arrest the culprits responsible for the grenade attack on AL rally, but also failed to detect any clue.

"Moreover, the government arrested and tortured those who protested the attack. Over 1,000 activists of Chhatra League were arrested in last 11 days," he said, adding that their leaders and activists were tortured in police custody.

Liaqat demanded immediate release of all leaders and activists including central office secretary Kamrul Hasan Khokon, Ranjit Kumar and Bidhan Kumar Saha.

"The government has been trying to hide the culprits responsible for the attack and trying to divert the incident by arresting and torturing our leaders and activists," he added.

Liaqat said the BCL will stage demonstration at district and upazila headquarters today, at educational institutions across the country

tomorrow and a united demonstration on the DU campus on September 6.

BCL acting general secretary Saifuzzaman Shekhor, Marufa Aktar Popy, Baloram Podder, Ashraf Azim Rubon, Khan Moinal Islam Mustak and DU unit General Secretary Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu were present at the briefing.

Meanwhile, five left-leaning student organisations, in a joint statement yesterday, protested the killing of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader in Sylhet by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir cadres. The student organisations are Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, JSD-backed BCL, Samajbadi Chhatra Jote, Jatiya Chhatra Oikya, and Bangladesh Chhatra Andolon.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.6 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	27.8	78	85
Chittagong	31.2	23.6	77	87
Rajshahi	31.5	27.0	79	81
Khulna	31.7	26.6	86	92
Barisal	29.3	26.0	83	95
Sylhet	30.2	24.5	100	83
Cox's Bazar	31.6	26.3	80	85

Rly inspector to probe Aug 21 fire incident in Subarna Express

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed an inspector to investigate into the fire incident in the Dhaka-bound Subarna Express coming from Chittagong at the Bhairab outer station on August 21.

A Bangladesh Railway press release issued here yesterday said that the Government Inspector of Bangladesh Railway (GIBR), MA Matin Talukder, will receive evidence of the incident at the Bhairab Bazar Railway Rest House on September 8 at 9.00am.

Witnesses and interested persons have been requested to record their depositions in this regard.

Fake Insecticide factory unearthed in Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur

A clandestine insecticide factory with a huge quantity of spurious insecticides was unearthed by Kotwali police at Kamdia village under Saltha thana of the district on Wednesday night.

Acting on tip off, police raided the house of ex-union parishad member Abdul Halim and found 28 varieties of spurious insecticides of huge quantity. The insecticides included both liquid and dust in packets, cartons and bottles. Police also recovered huge quantity of dust of stones and bricks-ingredients for manufacturing the insecticides.

Police Super of Faridpur, MA Jaill said that these spurious insecticide were being sold in different rural markets in view of the increasing demand of the farmers for planting T-Aman paddy.

Police also recovered some equipments for manufacturing the insecticides. Police arrested house owner Abdul Halim, Bachchu Molla and Afzal in this connection.

The recovered insecticides included Furadan, Bayodin, Zina Fosphate, and Sunforan.

RAPE OF HOUSEWIFE IN SAVAR

Women's bodies demand arrest of culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights and women's organisations yesterday demanded arrest of and punishment to those who raped and tried to kill a housewife in Savar on August 29.

They also called on the government to take necessary steps to stop violence against women.

Two youths of Vatpara raped the housewife and cut the veins of her throat and legs in an attempt to kill her in the bush on the Jahangirnagar University campus. Later, they left the spot assuming that she has died.

She was rescued by some gardeners of the university on Wednesday.

In a statement, Ain o Salish Kendra condemned the incident.

It also criticised the government for not taking any step to prevent such heinous incident.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also expressed concern over the growing incidents of violence against women across the country.

Karmajibi Nari said repression on women are increasing day by day as the rapists and culprits could not be brought to book due to absence of stringent laws.

Sammita Nari Samaj urged the authorities concerned to help stop repression on women.

Nari Samaj leaders also called for raising awareness to protect the rights of women.

Standard Bank donates Tk 40 lakh for flood, grenade victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Standard Bank has donated Tk 40 lakh in aid of the victims of floods and grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally on August 21.

"Bank Chairman Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed and Managing Director Mobararak Hossain handed over a cheque for the amount to AL President Sheikh Hasina at her residence during a meeting on Wednesday," said her press secretary.

During the meeting, the bank officials condemned the grenade attack and expressed sympathy for the families of the dead.

ATTACK ON AL RALLY

Int'l probe demanded

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad has demanded international investigation into the deadly grenade attack on Awami League rally on August 21, says a press release.

The demand was made at a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on Wednesday with parishad President Akhtar Ahmed Khan in the chair.

AL Presidium Member and Advisor to the parishad Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Duta President Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman addressed the rally.

The speakers said the mystery of the attack would not be revealed without an international investigation.

They also placed wreaths at a monument built there in memory of the grenade victims.

Parishad General Secretary Rezaul Karim Khan Reza conducted the rally.

1,119 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,119 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered 16 firearms, three other weapons and 13 bullets and filed six cases against 15 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



Begum Motia Akhtar Khanam, a resident of Dhanmondi, hands over a cheque for Tk 6 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Islam, executive director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in donation for the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, in memory of her late husband yesterday.



Painting show

'Urban sight', a painting exhibition by Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed, will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open until September 20.

Photo exhibition

Bandhu, a voluntary organisation, will inaugurate a two-day photography exhibition titled 'Pakhi' (bird) by bird watcher Enam Ul Haque. Venue: 31/2 Siddeswari Hope Tower. Time: 10.00am. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 4.00pm daily.

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Europa Europa' directed by Agnies Zka Holland. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen three films titled 'Mary Poppins' (1964), 'Singing in the Rain' (1952) and 'Seabiscuit' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 10.30am, 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Muldhara film show

Muldhara, a centre for writers, journalists and artists, will screen three films titled 'Harry Potter 2', 'Dil Chata Hai' and 'Pearl Harbor'. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am, 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Documentary show

Spectra Convention Centre will screen two documentary films titled 'Life on the Meghna' and 'The Miracle of the Ants'. Venue: House-19, Road-7, Gulshan. Time: 4.00pm.

Udichi workshop

The opening session of a weeklong workshop of Udichi Central Drama Section will be held. Venue: 21/1, Purana Paltan. Time: 9.00am.

Naree Mela

Naree Mela organises a daylong programme to mark its 8th founding anniversary with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Genetic Plaza, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Multimedia workshop

The opening session of a two-day workshop on the 'Introduction to

multimedia and presentation of software usage', organised by the University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS), will be held. Venue: UITS campus, 17 North Gulshan-2. Time: 2.30pm.

Unicef workshop

Unicef, in collaboration with Kendrio Kachi Kanchar Mela, organises a workshop on 'Youth organisation and Adolescent health'. Venue: 37/A, Segun Bagicha. Time: 9.00am.

Conference

An international conference on 'Oral tumour, oral cancer and maxifacial surgery', organised by Bangladesh Association of Oral and Maxifacial Surgeons, will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 6.30pm.

JSD meeting

A meeting of the central executive committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will be held to build up a united movement against the government. Venue: 35-36, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 10.00am.

Annual Urs

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Syed Azizul Bari (RH) Shah Saheb of Paribag will be held. Venue: Paribag Mazar Premises. Time: Munazat at 11.00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad organises a rally to protest the attacks on religious institutions of the minority communities across the country. It will be followed by a procession. Venue: Dhakeshwari National Temple. Time: 5.30pm.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Pallima Sangsad, 841/C Khilgaon. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.